Message Text

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SUBJ: DANISH PRESS COVERAGE PRIOR TO EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEET-ING, COPENHAGEN, APRIL 7-8

1. ON THE EVE OF THE EC SUMMIT, DANISH PRESS IS FULL OF SPECULATION ABOUT THE AGENDA TOPICS WITH ALL PAPERS POINTING TO THE WEST'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AS THE DOMINANT THEME OF THE APRIL 7-8 MEETING. THE EC'S TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPAN AND THE EFFORTS TO COMBAT UNEMPLOYMENT WITHIN THE NINE ARE EXPECTED TO OCCUPY A MAJOR PORTION OF THE DISUCSSIONS.

2. BOTH POLITIKEN (INDEPENDENT/LEFT OF CENTER) AND BERLINGSKE TIDENDE (INDEPENDENT/CONSERVATIVE), COPENHAGEN'S LEADING QUALITY DAILIES, DESCRIBE THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT AS A DRESS REHEARSAL FOR THE BIG JULY SUMMIT IN BONN. ARTICLES IN BOTH PAPERS STATE THAT FEW CONCRETE RESULTS ARE EXPECTED FROM THE COPENHAGEN MEETING BUT THAT THE DISCUSSIONS HERE WILL SKETCH THE OUTLINES OF THE EC'S POSITION FOR THE JULY MEETING. TODAY'S (APRIL 6) POLITIKEN STATES THAT TOO MANY "UNKNOWNS" UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL IMPEDE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC DECISIONS THIS WEEKEND. THE UNKNOWNS ARE SAID TO BE THE FACT THAT THE NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS JUST GOTTEN STARTED; THAT THE BRITISH FINANCIAL POLICY IS STILL UNCLEAR; AND THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S ENERGY POLICY IS STILL HANGING FIRE IN THE US.

3. POLITIKEN ALSO SPECULATES THAT FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD

D'ESTAING IS COMING TO COPENHAGEN WITH SOME KIND OF SURPRISE FOR THE NINE UP HIS SLEEVE. THE ARTICLE STATES THAT THE CLOSELY-HELD RESULTS OF THE MEETING BETWEEN GISCARD AND SCHMIDT LAST WEEKEND AT RAMBOUILLET MAY SIGNAL A MOVE BY GISCARD TO FOCUS THE SPOTLIGHT ON FRANCE. THE ARTICLE ALSO SAYS THAT GISCARD IS EXPECTED TO "PUT DANISH PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN IN HIS PLACE" WITH A FEW CHOICE WORDS ON JORGENSEN'S WASHINGTON COMMENTS SUPPORTING MITTERRAND IN THE RECENT FRENCH ELECTION.

- 4. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, OTHER EC SUMMIT AGENDA ITEMS WILL INCLUDE THE MIDDLE EAST, THE WAR BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA, THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA, EAST/WEST PROBLEMS AND A DATE FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.
- 5. THE APRIL 5 EDITION OF AKTUELT (SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC) REPORTS THAT THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WILL ISSUE A STATEMENT ON THE EC'S POSITION ON DEMOCRATIC COMMITMENT. THE ARTICLE STATES THAT BECAUSE NOTHING IN THE TREATY OF ROME EXPLICITLY REQUIRES MEMBER COUNTRIES TO HAVE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, THE NINE WANT TO DEFINE THE PREREQUISITES FOR MEMBERSHIP MORE PRECISELY. AKTUELT CONTINUES THAT THE STATEMENT IS NOT ENVISIONED AS AFFECTING PRESENT EC MEMBERS AND IS DIRECTLY AIMED AT THE THREE APPLICANT COUNTRIES, GREECE, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

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6. FINALLY, THE APRIL 6 MEDIA REPORT THAT THE DANISH POLICE HAVE TAKEN THE MOST EXTREME SECURITY MEASURES EVER IN PRE-PARATION FOR THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT. SEVERAL HUNDRED POLICE AS WELL AS SO-CALLED "SPECIALLY TRAINED" PERSONNEL WILL BE INVOLVED IN GUARDING THE AIRPORT, MEETING SITES AND RESIDENCES OF THE VISITORS.

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